



AN ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF THE NEW DAILY WORKER BUILDING

PEOPLE'S PRESS PRINTING SOCIETY LTD.

Sixth Half-Yearly Report

SEPTEMBER, 1948

Registered Offices : Swinton House, 324 Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.1

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PEOPLE'S PRESS PRINTING SOCIETY LTD.

Committee of Management :

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Secretary: MR. DAVID AINLEY

Sixth Half-Yearly Meeting

HELD IN BIRMINGHAM, BRISTOL, CARDIFF, CHATHAM, EDINBURGH, GLASGOW,
LEEDS, LIVERPOOL, LONDON, MANCHESTER, NEWCASTLE, NOTTINGHAM, SHEFFIELD
AND SOUTHAMPTON

OCTOBER 9th, 10th, 16th, 17th and 20th, 1948

A G E N D A

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| (1) Minutes of last Annual Meeting. | (4) Reports of District Committees. |
| (2) Appointment of Tellers. | (5) Election of District Committees. |
| (3) Report of the Committee. | (6) Other Business submitted in accordance with rules. |

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

14th September, 1948.

FELLOW MEMBERS,

There is a rising feeling of excitement among our staff as we approach the publication date of our new paper. Preparation for this great event has dominated the work of the Committee of Management since our Annual General Meetings.

Our building is now nearing completion; practically the whole of our machinery and plant is installed and the final fitting is in progress; the "dummy" has appeared, and by the time this Report reaches you, the machinery will have been tested.

Every day that passes re-emphasises the need for our *Daily Worker*—for an even bigger and more powerful *Daily Worker*—foremost in the fight for Peace and Socialism, able to answer the formidable unanimity of the capitalist press on every burning issue of the day.

These October meetings will, we are sure, provide a rallying point for our shareholders and supporters for the last lap of the drive for the new paper, and an all-out mobilisation to ensure its success.

MEMBERSHIP IN CAPITAL

Our membership now stands at 23,020 including 634 organisations and 22,346 individual members.

Share capital now totals £133,000, an average of £5.7 per member. Loan advances have increased by £4,501 and now stand at £20,586. The non-interest bearing loan held by the Trustees of the People's Press Fighting Fund has increased by £1,208, and now totals £64,416.

Our total capital resources now total £218,002 and we still require £31,998 to reach the capital target of £250,000 which is the indispensable minimum required for the new paper.

Our capital has increased by an average of over £1,000 a week since we launched our new drive, but the rate of contribution must be stepped up sharply if we are to reach £235,000 by the 1st November, and the quarter of a million by our 19th birthday, January 1st, 1949.

PRICE OF NEW PAPER

At the Annual Meetings we warned that a price increase was inevitable. The final decision on this question will have been announced in the paper by the time this report is in your hands.

The major factor in this difficult question is the very heavy reduction in our advertisement revenue. There is no doubt that our paper, with its devoted readership, is an excellent advertising medium. There has, however, been a very heavy fall in advertising expenditure generally which has affected us seriously. Furthermore many advertisers, influenced by the mounting anti-Communist campaign have withdrawn their business from us. We are confident that in the long run our paper's sterling merits and the readership loyalty it commands will compel recognition by advertisers as a whole. Meanwhile, however, the loss in revenue can only be made good by this price increase.

Even with its increased price our *Daily Worker* will still be excellent value. In this situation of growing crisis it is the greatest weapon at the disposal of the British people. We are confident that the great majority of our readers will pay the increase without hesitation when they know there is no other way for our paper to keep going. In spite of this the fight for circulation will be much more difficult and we will require an extra special effort by all our members and supporters to gain new readers so that we can sell every copy we are permitted to produce.

FIGHTING FUND

It is with great pride that we report that the Fighting Fund has continued to reach its target of £3,000 each month. It has again brought us through a difficult period and enabled us to proceed with our big development job more or less free from day-to-day financial difficulties. Even with the price increase, we need to extend our target to £3,500 to balance our Budget.

More *Daily Worker* Bazaars are being organised this year than ever before, and preparations in general are well advanced. We have budgetted for £8,000 from Bazaars in 1948, an increase of some £1,500 on the 1947 achievement, and will require all possible support to reach our ambitious goal.

Yours fraternally,

for the Committee of Management,

DAVID AINLEY, *Secretary*.

THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES

Our District Committees are two years old. As the following reports show, they are still in their teething stages and still show uneven development and capacity.

The Management Committee, aware of the problems facing the Committees, convened a special meeting of District Secretaries in January, 1948 and another in September, 1948. These were successful gatherings and showed, despite serious weaknesses, that with proper attention and an appreciation of their potential value in extending the support of our paper, we could have a virile Committee in every major centre.

The biggest problem is still that of personnel, and we hope the membership will assist in providing energetic, capable members for the Committees to be elected at this half-yearly meeting.

On the basis of the incomplete reports herewith, 57 Share Clubs were formed and 87 speakers sent to Labour Movement organisations, up to the commencement of the £30,000 Shares Campaign. Since July, the Committees have been playing an important part in the Shares Campaign.

The job of the District Committees is to send speakers into all organisations; endeavour to win new shareholders and readers, strive to build Share Clubs in all enterprises and organisations; initiate social and educational activity, all of which among other things, will help to maintain the Fighting Fund at the £3,000 per month target. An annual big job is to help in making the Xmas Bazaars the best ever.

LONDON. Resulting from circularisations by the Committee, a total of 40 organisations in the Labour and Trade Union Movement have received speakers on the P.P.P.S. A total of 890 people were present at these meetings which resulted in £97 in shares being taken out; 12 Share Clubs started and 147 *Daily Workers* sold.

A "Jain Session" was organised by the Committee at the St. Pancras Town Hall which was attended by 400 people. Discussions are now proceeding with Unity Theatre regarding a concert to be organised later in the year.

Local Committees have been set up in Islington, Hampstead and Stepney. These have set targets and are leading the campaign in their localities for new readers and shareholders.

MIDLANDS. During the year the Committee organised a well attended public meeting in Birmingham with 1,500 people attending at which Arthur Horner spoke and £60 surplus for future work secured. A successful dance was also held.

The paper was brought before the Birmingham Labour Movement on May Day when a mounted tableau won the approbation of all who saw it. Speakers have attended 20 organisations. More new Share Clubs have been formed before the £30,000 Shares Campaign. The Committee is actively engaged in Bazaar activity throughout the District.

LEEDS. The work of the Committee over the past year has resulted in 40 new shareholders investing over £60 in shares. 2,000 special appeal leaflets were printed and distributed. The Committee is now helping to organise a Peace Conference, to be held on November 14th; and a *Daily Worker* Birthday Meeting is being prepared for January, 1949.

The Committee has also been active in raising donations to the Fighting Fund, totalling £17 and 12 Collecting Boxes have been distributed. Particular attention is being paid to share stalls at the local Xmas Bazaars.

NEWCASTLE. Two speakers have visited Co-op. organisations with a combined attendance of 100; Two Share Clubs have been formed, and a week's tour in the district in May arranged for Barbara Niven, who attended a trade union branch meeting, four open-air meetings and several other meetings.

MERSEYSIDE. Labour Movement organisations have been circularised by the Committee asking them to accept a speaker on the Society. Thirteen such visits have been arranged so far—three in T.U. branches and ten in Communist Party branches.

Five Share Clubs have been formed and a *Daily Worker* Anniversary Meeting and a Summer Sports Gala have been organised. All Shareholders in the Merseyside District are being sent a letter from the Committee asking them to take out additional shares and to form Clubs. In some cases, this is accompanied by a personal visit. A successful public meeting was held in Picton Hall with D. Kartun as speaker.

SOUTHAMPTON. This Committee has been very active in making contact with local Labour Movement Organisations. Twenty-four copies of "32 Questions" were sent to selected organisations; 14 *Daily Workers* containing J. R. Scott's article were sent to A.E.U. Branches; 6 *Daily Workers* containing article on the Co-ops. were sent to local Co-op. Guilds. Each of these organisations was asked to receive a speaker. Six organisations have asked for speakers on the Society.

The Southampton Trades Council was approached and agreed to display copies of the report of the *Daily Worker* Peace Conference, "The People Want Peace."

A public meeting to welcome the full-size paper has been fixed for the end of October and preliminary arrangements have been made for the Half-Yearly Meeting of the Society, to be followed by a dance. Twelve Share Clubs have been formed.

EDINBURGH. Sixty T.U. Branches have been circularised and three speakers have been requested. Five Share Clubs are functioning in Edinburgh. 2,000 leaflets have been issued and 300 pamphlets sold in connection with the Shares drive. One T.U. delegate meeting was held in Kirkcaldy, with 60 delegates present.

SHEFFIELD. Preparations are in hand for circularising T.U. Branches offering a speaker and also to offer a delegate to report on the Peace Conference.

GLASGOW. The Glasgow District Committee played a very big part in the organising of the Scottish Peace Conference. They are also organising a Reception and Dance in October in the Prince of Wales Halls. The Central Halls have been booked for November 1st for a meeting to welcome the new *Daily Worker*.

WALES. Since the last October Meeting the Committee has been meeting serious difficulties which are now being overcome. Twelve Share Clubs are functioning.

Reports from **MANCHESTER, CHATHAM, WEST OF ENGLAND** and **NOTTINGHAM** indicate that these Committees are meeting with many difficulties and are not yet functioning effectively.